

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATTENTION HOME SEPTIC SYSTEM OWNERS IN THE COULEE BATON MICROWATERSHED DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AREA

Poorly functioning sewage treatment systems contaminate surface and ground water, create a health risk to humans, and reduce water quality. Many users and owners are unaware of the proper care and the need for proper maintenance of their home septic system. If optimal function is not maintained, owners can find themselves faced with the need for costly repairs or replacement of their system.

Vermilion Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) have received funding to cost share, 60% federally funded and 40% homeowner funded, in the repair or replacement of homeowner's malfunctioning home sewer treatment systems. The project is entitled the Coulee Baton Microwatershed Rural Sewer System Improvement Project. As the name suggests, home sewer systems within the boundaries of the Coulee Baton Microwatershed (Meaux-Nunez area) will be targeted. The program is voluntary and is designed with an education component. This is a unique opportunity for home sewer system owners to upgrade an existing system, and to understand how sewer systems influence surface water quality and the environment.

All interested home septic system owners and users are invited to attend one of two Town Hall Meetings which have been scheduled. The first will be held **June 23 from 9:00 – 11:00am.** The second will be held **June 30 from 6 – 8pm.** Both are scheduled at the Vermilion Parish Library (Room B) located at 405 East St. Victor Street in Abbeville. At these meetings, representatives from the Vermilion SWCD and Acadiana RC&D will give participants an overview of the project, an opportunity to explore its potential for the region, and an opportunity to apply for this cost share assistance. Homeowners in this watershed should attend at least one of the scheduled meetings; however, they may attend both.

Only home owners in the Coulee Baton Microwatershed Demonstration Project area are eligible for this home sewer system project. Please check the location of your home on the project map carefully for eligibility or call for clarification to avoid making a trip to meeting only to find out you are not eligible for the project. This meeting is only for residents that live in the project area! Project maps will be available for viewing beginning Monday, June 9th at the Vermilion SWCD office at 1049 W Summers Drive Suite B in Abbeville.

For more information, you may contact Mitzi Dohrman with the Vermilion SWCD office at 337-893-5664 ext. 3 or Lonnie Fontenot with the Acadiana RC&D office at 337-896-0288 ext. 3.

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